

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 13, 15, 21, and 26 - 28 have been amended. Claims 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1 - 6 and 9 - 28 remain pending in this application. No new matter has been added. Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that claim 4 includes an allowable subject matter.

Claims 5 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, for being indefinite. Regarding claim 5, the Examiner asks how can it be that the adapter is coupled to the hydration opening when it appears that the adapter forms the hydration opening. Applicants respectfully submit that this is not accurate. As seen in Figure 2, the hydration opening is referenced by numeral 19. It is an opening in the material of the enclosure 12. Separate from this opening is adapter 18, which is placed over the enclosure 12 in alignment with opening 19 of the enclosure 12. Thus, it is not the case that the adapter forms the hydration opening, since the hydration opening is formed in the enclosure (“lumen” in the claim).

As for claim 14, the Examiner questions how the ratio can be one to one when claim 13 recites that differences exist in the flow amounts. Applicants have amended claim 13 by removing the word “differences,” which ought to remove the Examiner’s rejection as well.

Claim 1, 5, 9-15, and 18-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,594,971 to Addy. Claims 2, 3, 6, 16, 17, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Addy.

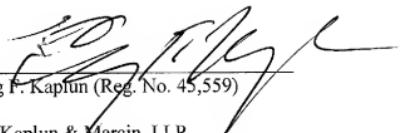
Applicants have amended the independent claims to recite a hydration port for receiving a fluid delivery device. Support for this amendment is found at least in paragraph [0020]. This limitation was recited as a “hydration opening.” Addy does not teach this limitation because the pouch 70 of Figure 6 lacks such a port. Instead, the pouch 70 includes a flap cover 76 covering

an opening 78 that is unsuited for receiving a fluid delivery device. Accordingly, the claims are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Addy.

Applicants submit that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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